(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve the balance of trade position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The trade deficit during 1985-86, 1986-87 and April-December, 1987 amounted to Rs. 8763.10 crores, Rs. 7516.91 crores and Rs. 4913.37 crores respectively. It is difficult to precisely estimate the trade deficit with which we will end the Seventh Plan period at this stage.

(b) Series of physical and financial incentives have been introduced by the Government in order to promote exports and curtail the increase in imports so as to improve the balance of trade.

Irrigation projects from Andhra Pradesh pending clearance

61. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects pending for clearance with Central Water Commission relating to Andhra Pradesh and since when they are pending;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in their clearance and what is the actual position at present;

(c) what steps the Central Government have taken for their clearance and by what time these projects are likely to be cleared;

(d) whether any efforts have been made by the Central Government to coordinate the activities of various agencies and departments in the matter; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (e) Comments on 7 major and 6 medium projects received since 1985, except for 2 medium projects received during this year, have been sent to Andhra Pradesh for their compliance.

Solution of Punjab problem

62. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed in Punjab by the terrorists since the imposition of President's Rule in that State and the steps taken by Government to prevent killings by terrorists in Punjab;

(b) whether Government are intending to initiate fresh negotiation with different Groups in Punjab to end the violence and for finding a peaceful solution of the problem; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to information furnished by the Government of Punjab, 777 persons were killed in incidents due to terrorist activities during the period 12th May, 1987 to 31st January, 1988. The steps taken to check terrorist activities in the State include raids on the hide-outs of terrorists and their harbourers/associates, intensification of patrolling and prompt follow up action on the information received about activities of such elements.

(b) and (c) The Government has made sincere efforts to solve the Punjab problem and efforts in this direction are continuing.

Jain Muni's efforts to solve Punjab problem

63. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jain Saint Acharya Muni Sushil Kumar has taken any initiative to solve the Punjab problem; and